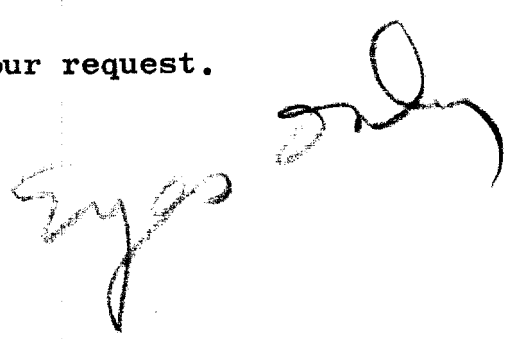


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**SECRET**  
**EYES ONLY**

16 December 1963

**MEMORANDUM FOR:** Deputy Director (Intelligence)  
**THROUGH:** Assistant Deputy Director (Policy Support)  
**SUBJECT:** Paper on Certain Aspects of Soviet Agriculture

[REDACTED] 25X1

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[REDACTED] I would suggest that you  
might wish to send it to the Director, to Thompson, and to  
Harriman. This admittedly is a somewhat speculative piece and you  
may want to have [REDACTED] check it against the raw data  
to see whether or not we have attempted to squeeze too much out of  
this information. [REDACTED] I  
must say the paper seems reasonable to me.

25X1

25X1

2. If we are correct in judging that the Soviet leaders were not fully aware of the grain crisis with all of its ramifications until sometime in August, certain other implications might be drawn from this with respect to the Soviet desire for a relaxation of tensions. I say this because the Soviets had already given us a number of signals during the late spring and early summer that they would like to tone down the cold war a bit, and if the judgments in this paper are right these moves were made well before the Soviets appreciated the full intensity of their agricultural difficulties. If our earlier reasoning presented in a CIA Memorandum is correct, namely that the Soviet drive for relaxation of tensions was prompted in large part by their economic difficulties, then the later realization that they were facing an acute shortage of grain may have made this new tack in Soviet policy even more urgent.

25X1

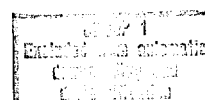
[REDACTED]  
Acting Assistant Director  
Research and Reports

Distribution:

Orig. and 1 - Addressee  
✓ 2 - OAD/RR (1 destroyed)  
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